

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 26382 071039Z

21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01

COME-00 EB-04 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-05 AID-05 MC-01

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /069 W
----- 019828

O 071026Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3959

SECDEF IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 26382

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SOPN, FR

SUBJECT: PRESS TREATMENT OF GENERAL PAUL STEHLIN'S
LETTER ON F-104 REPLACEMENT.

L. FRENCH PRESS WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY GIVES CONSIDER-
ABLE ATTENTION TO UPROAR OVER LETTER BY FRENCH DEPUTY
TO PRESIDENT OF FRANCE ASSERTING SUPERIORITY OF AMERICAN
COMPETITORS FOR NATO F-104 REPLACEMENT OVER FRENCHMIRAGE.

LETTER BY GEN.PAUL STEHLIN, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND ONE-TIME AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 26382 071039Z

WAS APPARENTLY WRITTEN TO GISCARD (WITH COPIES SENT TO

SEVERAL OTHER FRENCH LEADERS) IN SEPTEMBER, BUT SURFACED ONLY THIS WEEK. ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, GAULLIST DEPUTIES HAVE ACCUSED STEHLIN OF VIOLATING HIS "PARLIAMENTARY HONOR", AND DEFENSE MINISTER SOUFFLET HAS BEGUN AN INQUIRY AND IS CONSIDERING FORCING STEHLIN'S RETIREMENT FROM THE AIR FORCE RESERVE.

2. THE EMBASSY RECEIVED SEVERAL REQUESTS BY NEWSMEN FOR COMMENT LATE WEDNESDAY. WE HAVE RESPONDED THAT THE EMBASSY HAS NO COMMENT AT THIS TIME. STEHLIN'S LETTER IS OBVIOUSLY OF CONSIDERABLE SENSITIVITY HERE. RECOMMEND U.S. SPOKESMEN TREAD LIGHTLY IN RESPONDING TO QUERIES ON THIS BASICALLY FRENCH INTERNAL MATTER, AT LEAST UNTIL WE SEE HOW THE PUBLIC DEBATE DEVELOPS OVER HERE. PARTICULARLY, PLUG BY US FOR AMERICAN PLANE WOULD PROBABLY BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE AT THIS MOMENT AND COULD SUPPORT CHARGE CURRENTLY BEING MADE BY SOME THAT AMERICANS INSPIRED STEHLIN'S LETTER.

3. FYI, STEHLIN'S ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF THE AMERICAN PRODUCT WERE DEVELOPED IN CY SULZBERGER PIECE FOR NEW YORK TIMES WHICH APPEARED IN SATURDAY'S EDITION OF PARIS TRIB.

4. FULLER ACCOUNT WILL BE TRANSMITTED SEPTEL. TEXT OF STEHLIN LETTER BEING POUCHED TO ACTION ADDRESSES. STONE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS26382
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740320-0298
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741163/aaaacbga.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <08-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS TREATMENT OF GENERAL PAUL STEHLIN'S LETTER ON F-104 REPLACEMENT.
TAGS: SOPN, FR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005